A true and perfect de-
scription, of the last voy-
age or Nauigation, attempted by
Capitaine Iohn Rybaut, deputie
and generall for the French men, into
Terra Florida, this yeare past. 1565.
Truely sette forth by those that re-
turned from thence, wherein
are contayned things as la-
mētable to heare as they
haue bene cruelly
executed.

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G.R.III.
BR.MUS.

The Authour to his friend.

REmembring the promes that I made vnto you when we did embarque or take shipping in this Hauen, for to accõplishe the viage of Florida, that, at my returne, if that the Lord God did permit me to returne, I would bring you newes from thence. And although that since my returne, I haue often tymes deuised with you: yet notwithstanding, I thought good to doe a thing more agreable vnto you, to set forth in writing so much as I coulde well remember, and that for two reasons. One is, for that I knowe that you loue to heare published the greate wonders of God, which hath bene founde greate in thys discourse, when that shall be sene, the great daungers that he hath deliuered vs oute off, and hath of his mercy graunted vs to see our owne native Countrey. The other

is, for that you shall gladlye heare tryed, the inconstancie and variable estate of humaine kinde, wherein his hye lorde being abated, he learneth to call to God, as it appertayneth to magnifie hys highnesse, to walke vprightly in his obedience and seruice. You shall vnderstand (friend) to what end I speake this. The experiẽce sheweth, that it is a daungerous thing, when that not contented with our vocation, we are drawen backe from our desires, we do that that God defendeth, yea, ỳ which is nothing necessary. For what nedeth the handy crafts man to leaue his shop, the housholder his deare wyfe, his swéete children, his countrey, his owne & proper goods, for to go seke false & straũge thinges, seking to take shadowes, being guided by blinde guides. But euery one will touch felicity, the which can not be without the meanes of externe goods, yea eũ so as is disputed in the schole of that great Philosopher Aristotle. I confesse it on condition, if you will graunte that that is verye little, wherewith nature is contented, and that reason demaundeth,

but

but the couetousnesse is greate & gapeth continually. Nowe we poore men at the least, ought to thinke on that which Homer sayth.

That not onely he that possesseth much is happy,
But he that the giftes of God can vse wysely,
He whom powertie holdeth let him pacientlye beare,
He that feareth death is neuer the neare.
He that is cõtẽt & prayseth fortunes state, (beate
Let him not shrinke at all, though she hir wings do
He that seketh not to clime vp fortunes wheele,
But is content with his estate, muche good thereby
(shall feele.

O how often is it come to my remembrance, during this perilious voyage, of that that I haue learned of Plinie, of one Gyges, that was the rycheste of his tyme, how that he, being before the Oracle of Apollo, for to enquire of ỹ most happiest of men. The miserable proud man vnderstood otherwise than the Oracle gaue answere, ỹ it was a poore olde man named Aglaus, which remayned in a corner of Arcadia, labouring and tilling a verye little ground which he had, and notwithstanding, it rendred ynough to sustaine

his lyfe and his family, and being cõtent with this kinde of lyfe, couetousnesse and desire of gaine coulde not once moue him to go out of his little Village: so that he hauing this benefite, was an occasion to auoyde many euilles, and to receyue the lesse sorrowe and bitternesse during his life, louing better his presente estate, than to desire otherwise, and more esteeming his condition than the estate of Kynges. As for mée I am nowe bent to this opinion, that you ought well to note, that the harme that maye chaunce in a mans house during his absence, among his wyfe and family, doth surpasse ỹ pleasure of triumph, which victory doth promisse. For what profited it to ỹ king of kings (for so Homer calleth him) to haue in ten yeares conquered & gottẽ the moste richest Region of his time, when that at his retourne, he founde his house chaunged and altered, the hearte of his wife rauished by the conceptions of adoultery (beholde the fruite of his voyage) he loseth his lyfe, his sonne banished, and retourning from his banishment, killeth his

his mother, and the wicked fornicatour that kepte hir, it had bene better for him then, that went to vnpeople Troy, and to take by force Yllion, to haue taried at home with his wife Clytemnestra, thã to haue let a wicked man in his absence occupie his roume, and entise his wife to euill. Likewise of Helena, which bicause of hir husbands absẽce, was rauished by ỹ amorous Paris: of Penelope which was required of so hote burning louers, whileste that the prudente and wise warriour Vlysses, trauayleth the seas to finde out his country. It is therefore our partes, that haue bent our cares to Iesus Christ Lord of our soules, & who alone ought to raigne in our consciences, to obey to his commaundementes, the which is, that a man should cleaue to his wife, and be to hir as glewe, for so haue I vnderstode of our Doctours, that the worde doth sound Cula in the Hebrewe tongue. Moreouer, God cõmaundeth that the husband shuld render to his wife vnfayned loue & good will, but what is the remedie when that they are seperated. I knowe that iustlye,

we

we haue felt ỹ rygor of Gods iudgemẽts: yea for many causes, and principally, for leauing our families, the which we ought to care for most of all, next to God. Let them go to Florida who list, for my parte I would not wishe, that that man, that is a housholder, should so leaue his occupation, for to seeke his aduẽture in a straũge countrey, & for a greater profite of gaine: what faire promysse so euer is made of his enterprise. Also, we haue borne the wrath and anger of God, as ye may see in this discourse of Florida, which I do present vnto you, desiring you to receyue it as a token or pledge of my good will and loue, the whiche this fiftene yeares hath helde our heartes, straightly lynched and ioyned together by Iesus Christ our Lorde, to whom alone appertayneth the rule, power & glory, for euer and euer. Amen.

At Dieppe the.xxy.day of May. 1566.

Your louing brother and friend
N. le Shalleux.

¶ Of Terra Florida: or a *memoriall Hystorie of that* which hath happened in the last voiage by Capitaine Iohn Rybaut, enterprysed by the Kinges commaundement, at an Iland of the Indies which commonly is called *Florida*.

The king with manye Princes and Lords of his counsel, before that ẏ tumults and troubles of the Ciuill warre did ryse in his Realme, was minded to sende a competent number of men, with many shyppes, into one of the Countreys of India, named Florida, newlye discouered and knowē by the French men. Wherefore after that this Cyuill tumult was appeased and published, by his Maiesties authoritie, the pretended

purpose cõtinued. And for the executing of this enterprise, Iohn Ribaut a man of heart and of counsell, and well sæne in nauigation, was sente for to the Court, and there receiued the kings commission to appoint seuen shippes, that might carrye thyther, men, victayles, and munitions of warre, honouring him with the tytle of Lieutenant, or generall of all the men of warre, the which he had cõmission and commaundement to presse and take vp, expedient for such an enterprise. And to him it was expressely defended, to attempt to lande in any other Countrey or Ilande there, specially in any that is vnder the dominion of the king of Spaine, but ỹ in sayling the great Occean Sea, he should kæpe his full course to Florida. The newes of this voyage was soddenly spredde all abroade, and many were perswaded to submit them selues to the commaundement of this Capitaine, and vnder the kings auctoritie, being led with diuers affections: for some were pricked forward wỏ an honest desire for to knowe and sæ the Coũtrey, hoping that the sayd naui-

nauigatiõ would profite them afterward. Others being desirous both with hearte and to minde, make warre, came thither also, louing rather to abide the rage of the waters, than to remaine in their wõted estate and condicion, the which occasiõ might aswell prouoke one as another. The rumor that was spredde here, was: Florida promised sufficiencie and contentation, of al that man might desire in the worlde. For as much as that countrey receyued a singuler fauour from Heauen, for that there is neither Frost nor Snow of the coldenesse of Septentrion, nor yet the burning heate of the South. The fieldes without labouring and tilling, bring forth inough, wherewith to sustaine the lyfe of men that dwell or shall dwel or inhabit there. It seemeth for to make a coũtrey the mosse fruitefullest, and rychest that is in the compasse of the worlde, if that there were men that woulde employ their industrie or diligence, in trimming of the ground to mans vse, the which extendeth from Aquilon to Septentrion, almost in the like longitude, as Europia,

and his latitude is. xxiij. degrées. Sometimes whē ẏ the beames of the sunne are spredde from the highest degrée, it receyueth great heate, the which notwithstanding, is tẽpered not onely with the freshnesse of the night, or with the Dewe that falleth from heauen, but also with moste gracious raine falling aboundantlye, so that the ground is very fruitefull, yea, in such sort, that the grasse groweth of a wõderfull highnesse. It is also rich of golde, and with all sorts of wylde & tame beasts, which haue the fieldes fayre and large. Notwithstãding also, the Hilles are of a reasonable highnesse, the Flouds and Riuers very pleasant, dyuers kinde of trées rendring swéete smelling sauour. All this being considered, it coulde no otherwise be, but that man there shoulde haue great pleasure, and singuler delectation. Many therfore being ouercome with these faire promises, others with a couetous desire, thinking to be made ryche by this voyage, bicause of the gold, came by heapes to this towne, where ẏ mnster should be, for to chose those, which at the iudge-

ment

ment of the Kinges Lieutenant, shoulde seeme most fitte for the beforenamed enterprise: but it was not so soone put to effect as some did desire, & specially those that had receiued the souldiers into their Innes and houses, for they were wery to haue men that made suche cheere, wythout paying the shotte, though that they promised them with assurance that shortlye they shoulde be contented and payed. And they were foure Monthes and more in thys Towne or euer they set forward. But in the ende, they were bounde by a certain othe, to behaue them selues faithfully in the kings seruice, receyuing wages for sir Monthes, which at the last, was not to the Generals contentation. For about the Moneth of May. 1565. that againe the musser of men shoulde be for to take shipping, some of them that had receyued wages, being troubled in conscience, of so long a voyage, being also amazed to beholde the rage of ỹ Sea, chaūged their purpose, and withdrewe themselues secretly, without passing any further. Nowe for to make shorte, and least

they should dayly diminish, they were a-gaine instantly called and, they were cõmaunded that at that verye houre, they shoulde take shipping, which was the tenth day of May, & we remayned in the Rode, till the.xvij. day of the before sayde Moneth, tarying for certaine beastes and corne. The number of men for this voyage were three hundreth, besides handy-craftes men & their families. And whyleste that we stayed for the commaundement and commoditie of our Lieutenant, and hauing the wind fauourable, the Tuesday being the.xvij.day of May, there did ryse a great tempest, the windes blowing vs from one parte to another, in suche sorte that the waues meting, with such a vyolent force, gaue such feare to our Mariners, that they could find no other proper remedy, but to cut the Cables, leaue the Ankers, and to giue vs ouer to the pleasure of the winde. The moste violentest winde that was, was a Northerly winde, the which draue vs so swiftly, that sodenly we were at New Hauen, and there we remayned three dayes, loking for newes

from

from Dæpe by a Bzingandine, that we ſent ſtraightly thither, and then we pzepared oure ſelues, to departe from this Rode, the.xxbj. of the befozeſaide Wonth, & as we thought to kepe our right courſe, incontinently a contrary winde toke vs, and cauſed vs to retire to the Ile of Wilkam, one of the Countreys of England, where the Engliſh men were deſirous to knowe of our enterpziſe, & after ẏ they had knowledge therof: they offred to doe vs pleaſure. The daye that we arriued thither, was the.xxbij. of May, and there we did ride at an Ancker till ẏ .xiij.of June, on the which day, we had the winde at the Nozthealt as faire as we did wiſh, ſo that we hoyſſed vp our ſayles, and ſayled the right courſe to Florida, the which we did long to ſæ, and we remayned ſayling the greate Occean Sea, two whole Wonthes, befoze that we could haue ſight of Terra Florida, ſauing of an Iland, named by ẏ Peſants Vocaionques, ſome of our mẽ would haue named this Iläd Katherine by ẏ name of ẏ Quene, mother to the King: & they ſayd, that it is.xxbij. de-

grées of latitude. We sawe also a shippe two hundreth Leagues beyond, towards the Sea, but we came not nere it, by three or foure Leagues. When that we were aryued into Terra Florida, we perceyued the fiers that the Indians made vs, which was the .xiiij. day of August. We sente a Brigandine to discouer a little Ryuer, and at the mouth of the Riuer, there were certain wilde mẽ, which did trucke siluer for our marchãdise that we had brought, and they saide that they had that siluer, of a shippe that had bene cast away, cõming from Entailes. We found there a certain Spaniarde, escaped from a shipwracke twentie yeares agoe, whome we toke vp into our Brigandine, and we did inquire of him, if he coulde tell any newes of the Frenchemen, that kepte a holde in that Coũtrey: and he answered that he knew nothing, sauing ỹ he vnderstoode of those wilde men, that they were encamped fifty Leagues more Northwarde than where as they were aryued, so we set vp sayle and coasted al along ỹ coast, which semed to be the sandy lande, planted with little trées

trées all along, and the floudes that come from the Southwest are there very smal, and in ỹ mid way we discouered a Ryuer, that our men before tyme had named the Ryuer of May, whereas also the floudes are not very greate that come from the North northeast. And bycause of the shallownesse of the waters, we might sée the Anker holds ỹ before had bene there, and we founde within three or foure Leagues of lande, six or seuen fadome water, or there about. I remẽber also, ỹ betwene the Ryuer of May & another named Aye, we founde another on the Northe syde, about two Leagues distant from the Ryuer of May, and there we cast Anker being benighted, hauing eyght or nine fadome water, finding the bottom in some places sandy, somtymes grauely, & much Oxias. We sounded also ỹ Ryuer of Dolphins, and there we found at the bar two fadome, but at a full Sea there is found two fadome and three quarters. And after that we had long coasted the coast to find a landing place, the .xxbij. day of August, we cast oure Ankers in the Rode, of the

Ryuer of May, at seauen fadome water, being frō the lande about two Leagues. On Wednesday being the.xxix. of ỹ sayde Moneth, we entered into thrée Barges, & rowed vp the sayde Ryuer, straight to the holde where oure men kepte, the whiche they before time had made, for their place of assurance and rest, a place very cōmodious, as well for the Ryuer that it hath on the one side, & a wood on other ỹ side, which is distant not passing a quarter of a myle from the place, and a fayre fielde betwene the wood and the Holde, and another side verye pleasaunt couered with grasse and hearbes, very long, and of diuers kinds: and there is no way into the Wood, sauing a little way made by oure men, about a mans pace, the which they had made in going to the fountaine that was in the sayde wood. When that we were aryued here to the sayde place, our Lieutenant caused the victayles to be discharged, & carryed to the Holde, with other munitions to recreate ỹ place, and also commaunded, that we handycraftes men with our wiues and children, should

go

go thither, and cauſed vs to be conduited thyther by a Gentleman of the houſe of Vlly, of Beauchaire, and others, to whome alſo he gaue the charge of his moſt precious cariage. Thoſe that taryed for vs at the Fort, were greatly reioyſed at our comming, for they were perplexed and troubled to be ſo long tyme without hearing any newes out of France, and that more augmented there dolour, they were without victayles, vnleſſe that they would accuſtome them ſelues to liue according to the order of the Countrey Inhabitantes, of whom alſo they could get nothing, but by violence and force, as we ſhall declare more plainelye hereafter. Nowe when that we were remayning there, I cõſidered the forme of the dwellers of the lande, which ſeemed to me good and gentle, for the men are ſtraight and well proportioned, ſomewhat of a ruddy colour. I vnderſtode that in euery village they haue a king, and for their clothing they haue Lether marked after a ſtrange faſhion, they haue no apparell neyther men nor women, but the women are gir-

ded

ded with a little valle or apron of the skin of some beast, for to couer the parte of nature that is most shamefast. Thei are neither flat nosed nor great lipped, but their face is rounde and full, their eyes cleare and feareful, their haire is very long, and they trusse it very properly round aboute their heades. And this trussing of their haire serueth them in stede of a Quiuer, to carry their arrowes when they goe to warre: it is maruellous to see how sodēlye they haue them ready in their handes to shoote very farre and as streight as is possible. As touching their maners, they are dissolute, they instructe not their children, neyther yet correcte them, they wyll take without conscience, and al that they can catche secretlye, they counte it their owne. Euery one hath his owne wyfe, and they kepe maryage, yea, with all Rygor. They warre against the Countryes adiacent, which are of diuers languages. Their weapons are bowes and arrowes. Their houses are rounde almost like a Doue house, founded and established with great trées, couered ouer with leaues of a

Palme

Palme trée. They feare not the windes and tempeſtes. They are often grieued with little flyes, which in their language they cal Maringens, and it behoueth them ordinarily to make fiers in their houſes, ſpecially vnder their beddes, to be deliuered of this vermine. They ſay that they ſting cruelly, and that part that is touched with their ſtinging, loketh lyke the fleſhe of a lazar. They eſtéeme nothing ſo rich and ſo faire as the feathers of Birds, being of dyuers colours. They eſtéeme muche little counters, that they make of the bones of certain fiſhes, & other grene ſtones and redde. Their foode is rootes, fruite, herbes, and fiſhes of diuers kinds, and their fiſh is very fatte that they hang to drye, the which they call in their language Boquarie, they take out the fat the which they vſe in ſtéede of butter & ſaulſe. They haue no corne, but they haue aboũdance of a certaine ſéede which groweth ẏ heigth of ſeuẽ foote, his ſtalke is great like a Cane, and the graine great like a peaſe, the eare is a foote long, the colour is of the colour of wax vnwrought: the meane

to

to vse it, is firste to bruse it and stampe it to meale, then afterwarde they vndoe it by mingling and make therwith their Mygan, which is like to Rice that is kept in this countrey. It must be eaten assone as it is made, bycause it will quicklye chaunge, for it is not to be kepte. They haue many bastarde Vynes growing about trées, as we sée in some Countreys of this Realme, but they haue not the vse to presse out the Wine. Their drinke they call Cassinet, is made with hearbes mingled together, and séemeth of the colour of Ale of our countrey, I haue tasted thereof, and it hath not bene straunge to me. As touching the countrey it, séemeth to me hilly. There are many Forrestes which maye be the occasion of so manye wilde beastes, ẏ which they say will hurt those that take not good hæde. I wil leaue to speake many things of wilde beastes, ẏ which only I haue heard speake of, but it is inough for me to wryte that which I haue séene, and that séemeth to me worthy of memorie for the posteritie. And singularly of Cocodrils, the which often tymes

tymes are sæne come forth of the sande to go sæke their pray, we haue sene many, specially one deade, and we haue eaten thereof, the which eateth tender, & white as veale, and almost of the same taste. He was killed with the shotte of a Gunne, stroken betweene two skales, otherwyse they are strong inoughe for any strokes: his mouth very great, & his tæth straight like the tæth of a combe, his body was .xij. or .xiij. fote long, the legges very short to the proporcion of the bodye, his nayles straunge and cruell, his tayle strong and long, wherin consisteth his life and principall defence. Also in the mouth I find no apperance of tongue, for he had the vpper parte vnder, a thing monsterous, whiche in beholding thereof is inoughe to giue feare to men. Also I did sée a serpent dead by the wood which had bene killed by one of our men, of which the wilde men cut of the heade, and did carry it away with greate care and diligence: I coulde not know the reason wherfore they did so. He had wings by the whiche he might sometymes flye vp from the ground. Some of

our

our men thought that the wilde men did it for some superstition, and as farre as I could see, they are not without some opinion of diuinitie, like as I do coniecture by certaine circumstances, that easelye they might be brought to good ciuilitye and honestie, and also to holinesse & sound Religion, if that God of his mercy would vouchsafe it: for so soone as the Bell had rong for to goe to prayers of our Holde, they would be there, and stretch vp their handes to heauen as we did, yea, with reuerence and attentiue eare. In ỹ meane time, our gouernor was by for to acquite faithfullye his charge, and gaue order that the holde might be so ramperde and furnished, ỹ it might serue for a defence, least by aduẽture ỹ barbarous mẽ might sodenly make an insurrectiõ, & ouerrunne vs. Monday the third day of September, did arriue nere to our shippes fiue saple of Spanishe ships, the Admiral being of the burthẽ of .iiij. hũdreth Tunnes, the Barke a hũdreth & fiftie Tunnes, being followed with thræ patences, the which came & cast Anker hard by our shippes about nine of

the

of the clocke towarde night, in the night they and our shippes spake together, and when that our men had asked them why they came to seeke them, they aunswered that they were enimies, and that the war was sufficiētly declared, so then our men beholding the strength of the Spaniards to their enuy and naughtye will, wayed their Ankers, and set vppe sayle, and the Spaniardes chased after them, but they coulde not get them by sayling, & therefore they retired into the Ryuer of Dolphins, and there they were minded to descende. And after that they had conspired our ruine with the wilde men, as ẏ issue of their enterprise in the ende sheweth, from this Ryuer they sente of their men by companies as many as they thought needefull for to execute their enterprise. And since we vnderstode of the wylde men, that they were in armour fire hundreth men. Not long after, three of oure shippes being come againe to the Rode, (for the Trinitie our Admiral was borne downe the Riuer hauing no Anker holde) the Capitaine Iohn Rybaut was myn-

ded with these three shippes to pursue the Spaniards: and after that he had counsailed with his men vpon this enterprise, shewing vnto them that it was necessary to shewe their force vpon the water, vnlesse they would incurre the losse of their shippes, for our men being on lande could not let them to effray those that were left in the shippes, being but a small number in comparison to the enimies, the which seemed vnto vs an intollerable losse, specially that we coulde sende no cõmoditie into France for to let the kings Maiestie vnderstande the estate of our enterprise. Therefore vpon Monday the tenth day of September, three houres before none, the Capitaine and kings Lieutenant would see all his men, and after that he had exhorted them to do well in the kings seruice, toke shipping with them, taking for his defence not onely the Souldiers that he had newelye brought thither, but also the best of them that kept ỹ place before, also the chiefe standard of Capitain Laudoniere. This Capitaine being wery ed without hearing newes out of Fraunce,

and

and displeased for that he was depriued of
fode, a little before ỳ we arryued thither,
thought to returne againe into France,
and in the meane time did not care much
if his company did that to the Countrey
Inhabitants, wherby their good affection
might be turned from the Frenche men,
but he suffered them to force them and
bring them prisoners to their Holde, to
take by force their Mill, and other things
that necessitie, whiche can bee vnder no
law, did constraine them. And for so much
as desire of vengeance is naturally plan-
ted in mannes heart, also that the com-
mon appetite of all beastes is to defende
their bodyes and lyues, and to auoyde
those thinges that shall seeme hurtefull, it
is not therefore to be doubted, but that
these wilde men did confederate with the
Spaniards, how they might be deliuered
of vs French men, with whom they were
both in body and goodes trauayled & pay-
ned. The Tuesday being the .xj. of Sep-
tember, aboute eight of the clocke in the
morning or there about, when that oure
Capitaine was very nere to the Spani-

ards there did rise a great wind which cõtinued a long tyme, with great showers of raine, thunders & lightnings, in such sorte that the ayre was some tymes like fyre, so that both partes being afrayed of the rage of ẏ weather, seperated our three shippes, being faine to abide the weather, and the Spanish shippes made the winde good: and the rage of the weather dured till the.xvij.day of September. Now the Spaniards being descended on land, had leysure enough to espie & seeke out a way vnto the Holde, and to inuent the meanes howe to entrappe vs, knowing that our General was at sea with ẏ chiefe strẽgth, loking for fayre weather, and that those that remayned in oure Holde were the most part sicke, being altered by the smel of the Sea, part handycraftes men with women and children, being in all to the number of two hundreth & forty soules, vnder the garde and diligence of Capitaine Lauduniere, which misdoubted nothing lesse, than that a companie might come by lande to entrappe them. Wherefore our Capitaine did rise earely in the morning

morning for to refreshe him, bycause of the foule weather that had bene ỹ nighte before, opening the wicket an houre before the Sunne rysing, the most parte of vs in the Holde being fast a slepe and in our beddes. The Spaniardes hauing trauersed Woods, Dytches and Ryuers, being conducted by the wylde and barbarous men, aryued the Monday being the xx. day of September, in the morning earely to our Holde, the morning being very cloudy and rayny, and entered therin without any resistance, whereas they made a most horrible and dolefull slaughter of our men, such a rage and crueltie they had conceyued against our Nation. They sought then who could best cut the throtes of men, hole & sicke, women & litle childzen, a pitifull sight and lamentable. Some of our men, ỹ most nimblest, stepping out of their beddes, got away and saued them selues in the shippes that were in the ryuer, being left there by our Generall, vnder the keping of Iames Ribaut Capitaine of a shippe named the Pearle, and vnder Luis Ballard his Lieutenant:

the others being almost intrapped, leaped ouer the fence or wall of our Holde, the Capitaine Lauduniere saued him selfe by that meanes, with hir that serued him in his Chamber. I was almost taken sodenlye going to my worke, my toole in my hande, for comming out of my Cabane, I met the enimies, so that I knewe no other meanes to escape, but to turne my backe and hye me as fast as was possible to leape ouer the fence or wall, for I was coursed with a Pike man, and I knowe not how otherwise but only by the grace of God, my strength doubled powre olde man that I am & gray headed, notwythstãding I leaped ouer the Kamper, which in taking aduisement I coulde not haue done, for it was eight or nine foote highe, so that when I was ouer, I hasted to saue me in the Wwods, and about the distance of a bowe shoote, when that I was nære to the Wwod, I turned my face towarde the Holde & stayed a little, and that more bolder for that no man followed me. And as from the place where I stode, I might easely see the Holde, so did I heare an horrible

rible cry of the slaughter that was made of our men, and three auncients of oure aduersaries planted vpon the Rampers. Hauing now lost all hope to see our men together, I put my selfe into the mercye of God, and launched into the thickest of the wood, for this I thought, that I should not finde more greater crueltie among the wylde beastes, than the crueltie that the enimies extended vpon our men. The miserie and trouble wherewith I felt my self wrapped, seing in earth no more hope but that the lord God of his speciall grace aboue mannes hope might deliuer me, it made me therfore cast sighes and teares, and with a voyce full of sorrow I began to cal vnto God after this sort, saying: O God of our fathers and Lorde of all consolation, which hath commaunded vs to call vpon thee eue from the laake of Hell and panges of death, promising thy sodaine ayde and helpe, shewe vnto me, for the hope that I haue in thee, what way I might take for to come to the ende of this miserable age, plonged in the gulfe of sorrow and bitternesse, at the least cause

me that fæling the effect of thy mercy, the assurance that I haue conceyued in my heart of thy promises, be not taken away by the cruelty & furious rage of the wilde beasts on the one side, and of thy enimies and ours on the other side, the which sæke our death more for that thy holy name is called vpon amongst vs, than for any other thing. Helpe me O god, assist me, for I am so afflicted that I can call no more.

And in the meane time whilest I made this discourse, traueling the Wood very thicke of Brears and Thornes, vnder the hyghe trées where as there was neyther pathe nor way, wherein I had bene not aboue the space of halfe an houre, but that I hearde a noyse, as though it were the wepings and complaintes of men that were aboute me: notwithstanding, I going forwarde in the name of God, hauing confidence in his helpe, I discouered one of oure companie named Lasieur of Blonderie, and another behinde him, named maysster Robert, being well knowen of vs all, for that he had the charge to say seruice in oure Holde, shortely after came

cams to vs the Lackeys of Le Sieur de Vlly, the Nephewe of Mounſeur Beau, Maſter Iames Teuſe, and many others. So being gathered together, we did conſult of our miſeries, deliberating of that which we had to do for the ſauing of our liues. And amõgſt vs one being ſomwhat ſéene in the Scriptures, began after this maner, ſaying: Brethren, ye ſée in what extremitie we are, what parte ſoeuer we turne our eyes, we ſe nothing but barbarouſneſſe, the heauen, the earth, the ſea, the woods, the men, & to be ſhort, nothing fauoureth vs. What knowe we if that in yelding vs to the fauor of the Spaniards, they wil ſhew fauour. Wel, yet although they kill vs, it ſhall be ſuffered but for a time, they are men, and it may be that their fury being appeaſed, they will receyue vs on compoſition, otherwiſe what ſhould we do, is it not better for vs to fall into the handes of man, than into the mouthes of wilde beaſtes, or rather to die for hunger in a ſtraunge lande. After that he had ſayde theſe wordes, the moſt parte of oure companye was of his aduiſe, and

prayſed

prayſed his counſell. Notwithſtanding that I ſhewed them the crueltye, yet all bloudy, of oure adverſaries, and that it was not only for one cauſe and humaine debate that they had executed with ſuch a fury their enterprize, but principally for the knowledge that hath bene giuẽ them, that we are of thoſe that are returned to the preaching of the Goſpell: let vs not therefore be ſo wilfull as to truſt in man more than in God, which maketh thoſe that are his to liue, yea, euen in the midſt of the dead, and giueth alwayes his helpe when that the hope of man fayleth. Alſo I did alleage certaine examples oute of the holy Scripture for the purpoſe, of Joſeph, Daniel, Elias, and other Prophets. Alſo of the Apoſtles, as of S. Peter, and of S. Paule, the which all, being brought out of affliction, yea, by extraordinarye meanes, and ſtraunge to the ſenſe and reaſon of man, his arme I ſay is not at al weakened, his hande is alwayes one. Remember ye not (ſaide I) howthe children of Iſraell fledde from Pharao, what hope had this people to eſcape the handes of

this

Tyrant mighty and cruell, he followed them euẽ hard at their hæles, before them they had the red sea, on both sides mighty hye hilles, what then, he that opened the sea for to make a way for his people, and afterwarde swallowed vppe the enimies therin, might not he in like maner guide vs through the woods and fieldes of this straunge Countrey. For all that I could say, sixe of the company followed the first preposition, and left vs, taking their way to their enimies, hoping to finde fauour and grace before them, but they knew incontinently and by experience, what folly it is to trust more in mẽ than to ỹ promises of our god. For being once come forth of the wood, as they thought to haue gone to the Fort, beholde they were taken by a cõpany of Spaniards, and intreated like vnto the others, they were killed, & then drawen to the Ryuer side, whereas the others being slain in the Holde lay on heapes. And I will tell an exãple of extreme cruelty. Iames Rybaut capitaine of the Pearle, rid with his shippe at an Anker about a hundreth paces from the Holde,

and

and receyued many of those that escaped this slaughter. The Spaniards hauing their hearts great, bicause of their victory, were bent to dispatch the rest of ỹ Frẽch men, made ready the ordinance against the shippes and boates, but bicause of the raynie weather, and for that the Gunnes were oute of order, they did no harme to our men, but they sent a Trumpet vnto them to summõ them to yelde, but when they sawe that this feared them nothing, they sente one of their men euen vnto the Shippes, shewing the authoritie of Dom Pedre Maluendo, generall of their company, for to compound with our men on this condition, that they shoulde leaue the shippes and goe their wayes in their Boates with their baggage to the other shippes that were more lower at ỹ mouth of the Ryuer, distant from the Holde about two Leagues, to ỹ which our men aunswered, that there was no warre betwene them, when that aboute sixe Monthes passed, they had receyued commaundement of the King to make this voyage, so that we haue not enterprised to do any

wrong

wrong or eraction to any man, for it was expreſſiuely defended by his Mateſtie, & alſo of his Admyral, ý we ſhould make no diſcent in any part of Spaine, nor yet to come neare, for feare of offending them. We haue kepte and obſerued the kinges commaundemēt inuiolately, ſo that you can not ſaye againſt vs, that we are the cauſe of this ſlaughter ý you haue made of our men, againſt all vſage of warre, the whyche maketh our hearts to bléede, for the which dede you may hereafter being in tyme and place, féele. And as touching the ſhippe that you demaunde, you ſhall ſoner haue our lyues, and whereas you thinke to conſtraine vs, we will employ the meane that God & nature hath giuen vs to defende vs. The Spaniarde being returned backe, did report that our men feared them nothing, but that they were minded to ſtande to defence. Then this furious company caſt the coller and bloudy diſpight vpon the deade bodyes, and ſhewed them to the French mē that reſted vpō the water, ſo that they ſought to hurt the ſoules of them of whome they

woulde

woulde if that they coulde dismember the body, for pulling out the dead mens eies, they did sticke them on their Dagger poyntes, and then with exclamations, tauntes, and mockings, threwe them towarde the Frenche men that were vpon the water. As for vs that remained in the woods, we continued trauesing, keping to our iudgement the right course to the Sea. And as it pleased God to direct our steppes and addresse our wayes, by and by we came to the croupe of a hill, and from thence we perceyued the Sea, but for all that there was great distance, and that worse was, the way that we had to take seemed maruellous straunge and harde. First the Mountayne whiche it behoued vs to discende downe, was of such a heygth and so slope, that it was not possible for any man keping him on his legges to descend, so that none of vs durst descende but for the hope that we had of certaine shrubbes and Brears that grew on this hilles side, by the helpe of which we gat downe, not without great paine, in scratching and renting our hands and

our legges, yea our bodyes also being all bloudy. Being descended from the hil, we lost sight of the Sea by reason of a little wood that was planted before vs, and for to goe to the wood, it behoued vs to trauelle a great field being marish ground, wherin did grow many wilde Roses and other straunge hearbes, of which the stalkes being harde as wood, and the leaues, cutte our fæte and our legges euen to the bloude, being alwayes in water vp to the knées, and that that doubled our miserie and calamitie, was, that the raine did fall from heauen in such sort, that we were as betwene two waters, and the farther we went, the deper we found ȳ water. Then thinking that we were come to the laste end of our life, we embraced one another, and with a common affection we began to sighe and crye vnto the Lorde God, accusing our sinnes, and knowing vpon vs the rygor of his iudgements. Alas O lord God (sayde we) what are we any other than poore wormes of the earth, our soules being altered and chaunged with sorrow and griefe, doth yelde them into thy han-

des

des O Father full of mercy, and God of Charitie, deliuer vs out of this place of death, or if thou wilte that in this deserte we make an ende of our liues, assist vs O Lorde, that death which of all things is most terriblest, when he commeth to take holde of vs, that he feare vs not, but that we may remayne firme & stable in minde of thy fauour and good will that we haue so many tymes tasted on and approued in thy Sonne Iesus Christ, for to giue place to the spirite of Sathan, the spirite of dispaire and defiaunce. For be it that we dye, we protest nowe before thy Maiestie, that we wil die to thée, be it that we liue, it shall be to tell of thy maruellous workes, in the middest of the congregatiõ of thy Saintes. Our prayers ended, we went forwarde with great payne to the wood, in so much that we arriued nere to a great Ryuer that ranne throughe the midst of this fielde, the breadth was not very great, but very depe, and the water ranne with great swiftnesse, for so much as this fielde was not farre from the sea. This Ryuer was an other increasing of

our

our sorowes, for there was not one of our men that durst swim ouer the Riuer. Being in this confusion of thoughts how to passe ouer, I remembred the wood that we left behinde vs. After that I had exhorted my brethren to patience, & to continue in good hope of Gods mercy, I returned to the wood and cut a long piece of wood with an ende of a Bill that was left in my hande at the houre that the Holde was taken, I came againe to the others that taryed me in great perplexitie. Now brethren, sayde I, let vs see if that God by this staffe will shewe vs fauour to bring our iourney to an ende, so we layde the staffe or forke vpon the water, one of our men, and also euery one following his turne, holding it by the end, and entring into the water caried the forke with him, and in the midst of the water, as we lost the sight of it, we pushed it with force and strength to the other side wheras we toke lande, with the helpe of the Rœdes and other hearbes that grew on the brinke, and so we passed all one after another, but it was not without great daunger, & drin-

king much salte water, yea, such a quan
titie, that comming to the other side, oure
heartes fayled vs, & we were as one that
is halfe drowned. After that we were
come to our selues, & had taken courage,
tending alwayes to the wood, the which
we had marked to be nere to the Sea, the
forke also was necessary to passe an other
arme of water, whiche gaue vs no lesse
paine to passe than the first, but thankes
be to God we passed it, and towarde the
night, we entered into the Wood, where
we remayned all the night in great sor-
rowe and feare, standing vpright oure
backes to the trées, and for all our greate
trauayle & iourneys, yet we had no mind
to sleepe, for what rest could the spirites
haue being in such feare? Also we saw a-
bout the poynt of day a beast, greate, lyke
vnto a stagge, within fiftye pases of vs,
whose heade was very bigge, the eies fla-
ming, the eares hanging, hauing ỹ hin-
der partes indifferent. She seemed vnto
vs verye monstrous bycause of hir eyes,
whiche seemed as thoughe they were fla-
ming, being very great, the which came

not

not neare vs, for to doe vs anye harme. The day being come, we came out of the woode and then we sawe the Sea for the whiche we had wished so much, nexte to god, as an only meane to saue our lives: but we were againe troubled, for we saw it all a marish ground full of water and couered with briars & wilde Roses like to ỳ which we trauelled the day before. We went forward trauelling these marishes, and neare vnto the place where as wée were mynded for to goe, we perceyued amongst the wylde Rosiers a companie of men, which at the first sighte we thought had béene our enimies which were come thither to cutte our waye, but when that we had beheldé more neare, we saw that they were desolate & naked as we were, by the which we knew that they were of our men, for there was the captaine Lauduniere, his chamber mayd, Iames Morgens of Dieppe, and Fraunces Duuall of Roane, with many others to the number of .xxvj. persons, vpon the deliberation of that which we hadde to doe. One of oure men clymed vpõ one of the highest trées,

where hée discouered one of oure little shippes whiche was vnder the charge of captaine Mailarde, to whome they gaue a signe, by the which they vnderstode our nède: so he caused his little barke to come neare, but to approch the sea banke it behoued vs to passe through these wilde roses, and two little ryuers like vnto those that we had passed the daye before, to the which was very necessarie our pearch or Forke that I had cut the day before, and other two that Captaine Lauduniere had made prouision of, so that we came nere ynough to the Barke, but our hearts fayled vs, what for hunger and trauaile. So that we had remayned there, had not the Mariners holpen vs, which shewed themselues verye succourable: and they bare vs one after another into their Barke, and so caryed vs to their shippe, whereas we were well and chærefullye receyued. They gaue vs breade and water, and after that we had eaten, we began by little and little to receyue strength, which was a most sure token of Gods mercy, who had saued vs, againste the hope of infi-

nite

nite daungers of death, with the whiche we were compassed on all sides, for to rẽder vnto him moste heartie thankes and prayse for euer. So we passed the nighte talking of the miraculous workes of god, and comforting one another in remembrance of our deliuerie. The day being come, Iames Rybaut Capitaine of the Pearle, bourded vs, for to conferre with vs what were best to be done, for to saue the rest of our men and shippes, and then it was shewed the scarcitie of victayles that we had, our strengthes broken, oure munitions of warre in our enimies handes, the vncertain estate of our gouernor, not knowing whither the rage of the tẽpest had driuen them. We concluded therfore that we coulde doe no better than to assay to returne into France, and ỹ chiefest of our company were of this aduise, to seperate in two partes those that were escaped from the Holde, and that some of them should be in the Pearle, and the rest vnder the charge of Capitaine Mailarde. So on Thursday being the. xrb. of September, we parted from the coast, by the

fauour of a Northerly winde, minding to sayle into Fraunce. And since the first day oure shippes were so parted, that we met no more vpon the seas together. We sayled .v. hundreth Leagues happely, but in a morning before the Sunne rising, we were assayled of a Spanische shippe whom we susteyned to our powers, & we so beate him with Gunne shotte, that we made him yelde to our willes, & we beate him in such sort, that the bloud ranne out at the skupper holes, so that no man was sene aboue hatches: but we could not bord them bycause of the weather, for feare of brousing our ship. They also being content, let vs goe, & so we left them, thanks be to God, and ioyfull of that which had happened, and for that none of vs was hurte nor killed in this fight, sauing oure Cooke. The rest of our nauigation hath bene without meting of our enimies, but we haue bene sore weather beaten, and almost driuen on ỹ Spanish coast, which had bene an increasing of our sorrows, & the thing that we did most abhorre. We haue also endured on ỹ Seas many other

things,

things, as colde, and hunger. For you shall vnderstande, that we that were escaped from Terra Florida, had no other apparell left, neyther for the nighte, nor yet for the day, but one poore shirt, and another little thin thing vpon it, which was very little to defende vs from the iniurie of the weather, and that worste was, the breade that we did eate, was fenced and naught. Also the fresh water that we had, did stinke, of the which we had all the day long, but one tasser or smal cup ful. This naughty and corrupt nourishment is the cause, that we being descended a shore, are fallen into so many kinds of diseases and sicknesses, the which hath caused to dye a great many of our company. And at the end of this perillous and lamentable nauigation, we were driuen on the coast of Rochell, whereas we have bene gently intreated of the inhabitants of the Coũtrey, and of those of the towne, giuing vs of their goods so much as necessitie required, being assisted of their good willes, we had sufficient for euery one to returne into his Countrey.

The ſeconde booke.

YE haue hearde howe Capitaine Iohn Rybaut toke ſhipping with ẏ ſouldiers for to finde out the Spaniards, and ſo hauing ſought them the ſpace of fiue dayes, and not finding them, he met the Admirall of his fleete, named the Trinitie, and being minded to kepe the coaſt againſt the Spaniardes, not knowing of that which had happened at the Holde, entered therein, according to the ordinarie cuſtome. The weather was troubleſome, for that the winde blewe ſo extremely, and it rayned continually. The fift day the tempeſt encreaſed after ſuche ſorte, that they were not able to reſiſt it, but of force were dryuen to the ſhore aboue the Ryuer of May about fiftie Leagues, and there the ſhips were broken, and their munitions loſt, notwithſtanding the men came on lande, ſauing the Capitaine Grange, which caſte him ſelfe

vpon

vpon a maſt and was drowned, a man among the others much to be lamented, as well for the good counſell that he alwayes gaue, as alſo for the fruites of his amiable acquaintance. Our men being then ſaued on ſhore from the rage of the waues, found themſelues wrapped in another trouble, for to ỹ hunger that helde them, there was no remedy, vnleſſe they woulde eate ſuche thinges as the earth brought forth, that is to wit, hearbes, rootes, and ſuche like, with the which they thought to ſatiſfie their craning ſtomack. There was not neyther to ſatiſfie their thirſt, but olde Ceſternes wherin the water was much troubled, for the ſkum that it did caſt, to loke to was enough to make a whole body ſicke, notwithſtanding, the rage of their extreme hunger and thirſte cauſed them to digeſt theſe vnholeſome meates and drinks, which ſemed to them very ſtrange, and they were in this perplexitie the tearme of eyght dayes. The ninth day by fortune they founde a little Barke, for the which they were somwhat comforted, hoping by that meanes to let

them

them of the Holde vnderstande of their shipwracks. Now betweene them and the Holde it was.xij. Leagues by lande, and fiftie by water, and betweene them and the Forte was the Ryuer of Dolphins, which is very depe, and of the breadth of one quarter of a Mile, wherfore without some vessel, it was vnpossible for them to passe ouer. When then they had receyued this Barke, they did caulke it with their shirts in stede of Okum. Then ỹ capitaine Iohn Ribaut of his grace and accustomed modestie, called many to his counsel and said vnto them after this sort: Companions and friendes, it is not for vs to continewe our lyues in such miserie and calamitie, it were better for vs to wishe for death, than to liue being charged with suche afflictions, vnlesse that God of his grace hath giuen vs fayth of his prouidence for to loke for succour, suche as it shall please him to sende vs, and in the meane time, let vs employ oure minds to seeke out the issue of these troubles. I am of this mind, that there be some amongst vs, the which shall go to the Fort in this

little

lytle Barke, for to let our men vnderstãd oure extreme nede, to the ende that they giue vs succoure, and being on the shore calling out many teares, they began to call vpon the name of God knéeling on their knées. When their prayers were finished, they beganne to looke, which of them were most aptest to sende: and they named Thomas Le Vasseur of Déepe, to whome Captaine Iohn Ribaut gaue the charge, that assone as he could, he should let them of the Forte vnderstande their distresse, and with him there went Vyncent Symon, Michell Gouer, and others to the number of sixtene. Our men, as I sayd before, were on the contrary side of the holde, for the riuer of Dolphins was betwene thẽ and the holde, so that going forwarde on lande toward the Fort, they sawe the very same day, on the other side of the riuer, a cõpany of men of Armes with their Standerds spread, & after that they had known by coniectures that they were Spanyards, our Frenchmen were perplexed in their heartes, knowing not what to doe, but for their best remedye,

they

they sent some of their cõpanie swiming ouer the riuer for to make offer to yelde, their liues saued. The swimmers were receyued at the first very curteously, the Captaine of this Spanish company was named Vallemande, who sware by the fayth of a gentleman & christian knight, to vse his good will towarde the Frenchmen, also that it was the order alwayes practised in warre, that the Spaniard being victorious, should be contẽt, specially with Frenchmen, without attempting further, and he shewed vs also by signes, to the ende that we might be persuaded of this fayre promisse, ẏ herein we should finde no fault, that the nations hereafter shoulde not speake thereof. And incontinẽtly he caused a Barge to be made readye, into the which he commaunded fiue Spaniardes to enter to passe ouer oure mẽ, the which they did. Now this Barge being come to the other side, and that the Spaniardes had made a narration in the name of Vallemande, the Captaine Iohn Ribaut entered first into the Barge, and others to the number of thirtie, and he

was

was gently receyued of Vallemande, but the others that were of his companie were caried further off & all bound, their hands behind there backes, two and two together, so the rest of our men passed ouer by thirtye at atyme, whylest that Vallemande entertayned our good Captaine Iohn Ribaut with fayre flattering wordes, the which trusted to the faythfull promisse of the sayde Vallemande, to whome he had yelded. Now our men as they came ouer, were bound two to two, and being altogether Frenchmen and Spaniardes, they went toward the Fort, the Captaine Iohn Ribaut and others, specially the Sieur of Ottigny when they sawe our men coupled together, began to chaunge countenaunce, and agayne desired the sayde Vallemandes fauoure, who assured them, saying that those bãds were only to bring them to the holde in safetie, and that there he woulde kepe that which he had promised. And when they were neare to the holde, he enquired of them whiche were Mariners, Carpenters of shippes, gonners and others which were

necessarie

necessarie to the offices of the Sea, the which being chosē out, were thirty men. And shortly after, beholde a cōpany came from the Hylde to oure men, who were made to come behinde the Sieur of Vallamande & his companie, like a companie of beastes that are dryuen to the slaughter. Then with the noise of Drums, Flutes and Trumpets, the courage of these furious Spaniardes was extended vpon the poore Frenchmen which were bound. There was assay who coulde best strike with the Pike, Haulberd and swoorde, in such sort, that within halfe an houre they wonne the fielde and name of this glorious victorie, killing those there, most cruelly, which were yelded, and whome they had receyued on their fayth and alleageance. During this crueltie the Capitaine Iohn Rybaut made certaine exhortations to Vallamande to saue his lyfe. Also the Sieur of Ottigny kneeling on his knees, remembring Vallamande of his faythfull promisse, but all was to no effect, for he turning his backe, went a little from them, & then one of his murtherers stroke

the

the Capitane Iohn Rybaut behinde with a Dagger, that he made him fall downe, and then doubled his strokes, till that he had taken his life from him. After suche sorte were our men handled, that before vnder the shadowe of assurance made by the Spaniards, had yelded. And for to shewe the more crueltie, they rente the Kings Lieutenants beard in despite, and for a shewe of there erpedition, the which shortly after they sente to Syuell, as certaine of our Mariners, reserued for thys voyage, haue few dayes passed faithfully shewed vs, specially one Chrystopher le Britton of New Hauen, the which secretly departed from Syuell to the towne of Burdeux, and from thence by ship came to Dæpe, and for a memorial of their victorie, they quartred the body of this faithfull seruant of the King, Iohn Rybaut, and of his head made foure quarters, the which they did sticke at the foure endes of the Fort.

Here hast thou (gentle Reader) sene the discourse of two sorts of people, wherin thou mayest indge with indifferencie,

and

and see what couetousnesse causeth, being both desirous of gaine, and in specially the monstruous cruelty of the one part. But the Hystorie suffiseth of it selfe, God is a righteous iudge which seeth the actes of all humaine kinde, and shall rewarde euery one according to their deserts. God keepe vs from murther and bloudshedde, and giue vs grace to feare him, and honour his holy name aright.

Amen.

FINIS.